Loan to the Central Housing Association.

437 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government—

(a) if it is a fact that in the budget for 1920–21 a provision was made for a loan of 2·00 lakhs to the Central Housing Association;

(b) if any application for loan was received from that Association;

(c) if so, what orders did the Government pass thereon, with the reasons therefor; and

(d) if it is the intention of the Government to help organizations started for the purposes of improving the housing conditions of the poor and the working classes.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) The Association requested that loans might be made to it by the Government at rates lower than those at which the Government borrowed. The request was negatived.

(d) The Government are prepared to consider the grant of loans to co-operative building societies for the benefit of the poor and working classes.

" The Housing, Town-Planning, etc., Act" of 1919 *passed by Parliament.*

438 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government whether—

(a) the Government have perused the Act recently passed by the Parliament with reference to the housing of the poor, called " The Housing, Town-Planning, etc., Act" of 1919; and

(b) it is the intention of the Government to pass a similar Act with the necessary modifications for the Madras Presidency.

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) A town-planning law has already been enacted for this Presidency —vide the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920 (VII of 1920). The question of introducing a Housing Bill is under consideration.

" Madras City and Suburban Town-Planning Trust."

439 Q.—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: To ask the Hon'ble the Minister for Local Self-Government to state—

(a) what the functions are of the " Madras City and Suburban Town-Planning Trust" constituted under section 45 of the Madras Town-Planning Act, and whether those functions include the building of houses for the poor and the working classes; and

(b) what provision has been made by the Government for the representation on the Trust of social service organizations of a recognized status and of the tenant communities.

A.—(a) The function of the Trust is to work out town-planning schemes in the areas entrusted to it, in accordance with the provisions of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920. Under section 4 (*l*) of this Act a town-planning scheme may provide for the construction of houses for the poorer and working classes.

(b) None.